

6/20/16

To: Chief Richard Gallegos
Espanola Police Department

From: Robin Salais

CITIZEN COMPLAINT

I, Robin Salais, am employed at Angelina's Restaurant. On June 7, 2016 at approximately 10:30am-11:00am, I was working and 5 police officers entered the restaurant. Two officers approached Karina Rascon at the register and asked if the manager was in. Karina responded, "No, he's not in." They asked who was in charge. Karina said, "My floor manager, Robin." They made inappropriate comments and said, "Well, she's going with us." As I was coming from seating a table, they met me and Eric Gallant said, "You're going with me." George Martinez was standing there also and the other uniformed men were standing behind them. My question to them was, "What is this about? Why do you need to talk to me?" I complied with all of their requests. We were walking out the door and all the customers were concerned, asking what was wrong, why are they taking Robin, and what did she do? This was very humiliating, embarrassing, traumatizing, emotionally disturbing, and uncalled for by the officers. They were very unprofessional in the way they acted.

As we were leaving the restaurant and walking out the door, I was never served with a warrant or any papers stating that they wanted to talk to me. I was never told that I was under arrest, nor was I read my Miranda Rights. I kept asking why they were taking me. Officer Gallant stated, "I'm taking you in for questioning." At one point he stated that I could go in my own vehicle. However, shortly after stating I could take my own vehicle, his voice got scary and loud and he yelled, "You are not going in your car, you're going with me!" At that point they walked me toward an unmarked unit and 4 other police vehicles.

We got to his car and he says, "Can I pat you down and do you have any weapons?" I asked and requested a female officer. As I made that request he got enraged, yelling at me, "I think you're watching too many movies." He told a young officer (name unknown), "Handcuff her." At that point I waited a good 10 minutes for the female officer, with customers going in and coming out. Detective Gallant and Martinez were making many gestures and comments, such as let's detain her car and get a search warrant for her home.

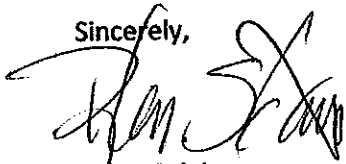
A female officer in a Public Safety Unit drove into Angelina's private property. She came towards me, asking me if she could pat me down. I complied. At that point she asks Officer Gallant, "Do I take her to my vehicle?" Gallant stated, "Wait. Let the young officer (name unknown) take his handcuffs from her, and you put your handcuffs on her."

I complied with everything, I didn't answer back. I could not have walked away because I was afraid one of them would have shot me in the back. They had no probable cause or reasonable suspicion to conduct a stop and search. I was actually on private property. I feared for my life during this incident. It was very traumatic that the employees were traumatized as well. The employees were devastated and anxious. They were not able to perform their jobs correctly and there were many complaints against

them that day. My manager was very concerned and wondered what I had been arrested for on private property. At that point they already told him that I had been released. They made me look like the biggest criminal in the world the way they treated me. It was extremely humiliating, and I have been experiencing severe anxiety ever since this stressful and harrowing event caused by the City of Espanola Police Department's Officers.

As a citizen they violated my civil and constitutional rights, all based on hearsay without any corroboration. I was never provided a reason for my detention, and never read my Miranda Rights. I just feel that after this event there will never be protection for myself and my family in this town. I feel that this incident was an abuse of power on the part of these officers with the City of Espanola Police Department.

Sincerely,



Robin Salais